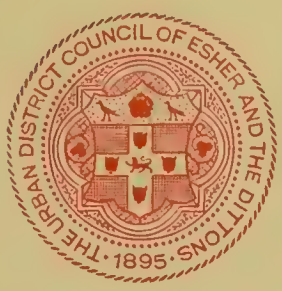
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...STRY OF HEAL...

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ESHER AND THE DITTONS

THIRTY-FIRST

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF

The Sanitary Inspector,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1925.

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THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ESHER AND THE DITTONS

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SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Area	5978 acres
Rateable Value	£187,834
Produce of a penny Rate	£635
Population (1921)	14,311
Number of inhabited houses	3,231
Average number of persons per house ...	4·4
Birth-rate per 1,000 living	13·6
Average for previous ten years	15·7
Death-rate per 1,000 living	9·5
Average for previous ten years	10·2
Infant mortality per 1,000 births	45·4
Average for previous ten years	51·3
Death-rate from Epidemic Diseases per 1,000 living	0·0
Average for previous ten years	0·28
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	14
Death-rate from Tuberculosis per 1,000 living	0·9
Deaths from malignant disease	12
Death-rate from malignant disease per 1,000 living	0·8

ENGLAND AND WALES.

	Birth rate per 1,000 living.	Death rate per 1,000 living.	Rate per 1,000 births. Diarrhœa.	Rate per 1,000 births. Total deaths under 1 year.
England and Wales ...	18·3	12·2	8·4	75
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns ...	18·8	12·2	10·8	79
157 smaller towns ...	18·3	11·2	7·6	74
London	18·0	11·7	10·6	67
Esher and the Dittons	13·6	9·5	0·0	45

URBAN DISTRICT OF ESHER AND THE DITTONS.

THAMES DITTON, SURREY,

June, 1926.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my thirty-first annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the district for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

As this report is a survey report it will be noticed that some sections contain information which is matter of common knowledge within the district, but it is necessary to include these details in order to complete the survey.

The district is situated on the southern bank of the Thames, which forms it northern boundary. The other boundaries being, on the east the Urban District of Surbiton, on the west that of Molesey, and on the south the Rural District of Epsom.

The main line of the Southern Railway roughly divides the low lying portion, including parts of Thames Ditton, Long Ditton and Esher, from the higher part ground of Long Ditton, Esher and Claygate. The highest point in the district is about 160 feet above Ordnance datum and the lowest 22 feet.

The subsoil on the northern side of the railway is almost entirely gravel, that of the eastern portion of the other half is clay, and at the western end this is replaced by the Lower Bagshot Sands. All parts are well provided with open spaces in the Commons of Esher, Thames Ditton and Claygate, which are easily accessible from Long Ditton.

The Council administers the three civil parishes of Thames Ditton, Long Ditton and Esher, and is divided into four wards, two of which constitute the parish of Thames Ditton.

The population of the district at the last three censuses was as follows:—

1901	1911	1921
9489	12,518	14,309

an increase of 31·9 per cent. for the first ten years and of 14·3 for the second period.

The increase of population in 1921 over 1911 is made up by the excess of births over deaths	1,078
By gain by migration	713
Total increase ...	1,791

The density of population for the whole district at the last census was 2·4 persons per acre, and is distributed in the four wards in the following manner:—

	Persons.	Persons per acre.
Claygate Ward	2862	2·0
Esher Ward	2883	1·4
Long Ditton Ward ...	2976	3·3
Thames Ditton Ward ...	5588	3·5

The district is a good-class residential one, within easy reach of London, where a considerable number of persons are employed.

The number of occupied persons over 12 years of age, including students over 18 years, was 2,703, of whom

1,488 were employed in London. There were 1,665 persons working in the district, but who were enumerated elsewhere. From this I find that 10·2 per cent. of the total population enumerated in the district are employed outside it. Employment within the district is found at the motor factory and bronze foundry in Thames Ditton, at book-binding works in Esher, and in Long Ditton at the works of the Metropolitan Water Board. In Claygate there are brickfields where a number of men are employed. The report of the census for 1921 shows that there were 3,231 inhabited houses in the district, and that the number of families was 3,427.

	Private families	Population in private families	Separate dwellings	Number of rooms occupied	Number of rooms per person
Whole District ...	3,427	13,946	3,134	19,390	1·39
Claygate	683	2,825	619	3,975	1·41
Esher	680	2,716	623	3,967	1·46
Long Ditton ...	700	2,976	628	3,743	1·62
Thames Ditton ...	1,364	5,429	1,264	7,705	1·42

The most direct index of comparative housing is found in the room density or the number of rooms per person, which shows in one figure the effect of the variations of sizes of dwellings in association with the corresponding variations in size of families and number of families and number of families per dwelling.

The number of rooms per person in the district is 1·39, while the average for the County is 1·29.

The size of dwellings is shown by the number of rooms, which is 6·21 per dwelling, the average for the whole County being 5·84.

The number of families per dwelling was 1·09, and for the County was 1·11.

But the size of families is less than in 1911, when it was found to be 4·31 per family, whereas in 1921 it was 4·07. It may be added that it was found that the size of families was less in all areas throughout the County in 1921 than in 1911.

In families occupying 1-9 rooms in 1921, there was 1·30 rooms per person, and in 1911 1·29 rooms per person.

The number of dwellings had increased by 300, or 14·5 per cent., but the number of families had increased even more, namely, by 539, or 18·7 per cent.

In 1921, 3·6 per cent. of the population were living more than two persons to a room, the proportion in 1911 was 2·8 per cent. living under these conditions.

I think that these figures support the view that there is less crowding of persons in the district than in the county generally. Though it is of course admitted that there are not enough houses for the people, and especially for the working class.

The amount spent on Poor Law relief was £917 13s. 0d., or a sum equivalent to about 1s. 4d. per person living in the district. There were 50 admissions into the Kingston and District Hospital, which corresponds to 3·4 per 1,000 population. Forty medical orders were granted for treatment under the Poor Law.

I have not received any reports as to special causes of sickness or invalidity in the district during the past year; and I have no knowledge of any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on the health of the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M	F.
Births	198	107	91
Legitimate	190	104	86
Illegitimate	8	3	5

Birth-rate 13·6.

	Total.	M.	F.
Deaths	138	77	61

Death-rate 9·5.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births:—

Legitimate	40·04
Illegitimate	5·05
Total	45·4
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	0

The following is a full statement of the causes of deaths in the district, classified for males and females, with the number of births and deaths under one year of age and the estimated population at the middle of 1925:—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

		M.	F.
	All Causes	77	61
1	Enteric Fever	—	—
2	Small-pox	—	—
3	Measles	—	—
4	Scarlet Fever	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—
6	Diphtheria	—	—
7	Influenza	1	—
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
9	Meningococcal Meningitis ...	—	—

		M.	F.
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	7
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	—	2
12	Cancer, malignant disease ...	8	4
13	Rheumatic Fever	—	1
14	Diabetes	2	—
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	—	3
16	Heart Disease	13	11
17	Arterio-Scherosis	7	6
18	Bronchitis	7	1
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	6	7
20	Other Respiratory Diseases ...	2	—
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum...	—	1
22	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...	—	—
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	—
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	4	3
26	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	—	—
28	Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ...	5	—
29	Suicide	—	1
30	Other Deaths from Violence ...	1	2
31	Other defined Diseases	15	12
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	—	—
	Special Causes (included above)—		
	Poliomyelitis	—	—
	Polioencephalitis	—	—
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
	Total	6	2
	Illegitimate	—	1
Total	Births	107	91
	Legitimate	104	86
	Illegitimate	3	5

Population, 14,480.

Causes and ages of deaths of infants (under 1 year) : —

Cause of Death.	*Age.*	*Sex.*
Marasmus (cause unknown)	22 days... ...	M.
Congenital heart disease	1 month ...	M.
Bronchitis	5 weeks ...	M.
Premature Birth (7 months)	2 days	M.
Asphyxia from drowning	Few moments...	F.
Inanition	8 weeks ...	F.
Premature infant	4 days	M.
Congenital birth	5 days	M.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

There are no hospitals subsidised or provided by the Local Authority within the area.

Tuberculosis cases which need hospital or sanatorium treatment are provided with accommodation which is arranged for by the Tuberculosis Officer of the County Council.

2. *Maternity.*—The only hospital available for these cases is the Kingston and District Hospital, which is under the management of the Kingston Board of Guardians.

3. *Children.*—These are either treated in the Thames Ditton Cottage Hospital or are sent to one of the London hospitals.

4. *Fever.*—The Fever Hospital, which is under the management of a Joint Hospital Board, is situated at Tolworth, in the Urban District of Surbiton. It is about three miles from the centre of the area, and cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever and erysipelas are treated there.

5. *Smallpox.*—This hospital is provided by the County Council and is situated at Clandon.

6. *Other.*—The only other local hospital is the Thames Ditton Cottage Hospital, which contains 11 beds and two cots.

It is a voluntary Hospital supported by public subscriptions.

There is no Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children in the area. Ambulance facilities for infectious cases are provided by the Joint Hospital Board, and for Small Pox cases by the County Council.

For non-infectious cases and accidents, the Council has recently decided to purchase an ambulance, which will shortly be available for these patients. Accidents within the area of the Metropolitan Police District have been hitherto dealt with by the Metropolitan Police, and within the County area by the County Police.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

These consist of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a full-time Sanitary Inspector, and to the salary of each contribution is made under the Public Health Acts. The Medical Officer holds the Diploma in Public Health, and the Sanitary Inspector the Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute, and also the Diploma of Food Inspector.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(*a*) *General.*—In each of the four wards of the district there are Nursing Associations supported by public contributions, and not under the control of the Council.

(*b*) *For Infectious Cases.*—No special arrangements are made for the nursing for such cases as whooping cough or measles.

(*c*) *Midwives.*—The Village Nurse in Thames Ditton is a registered midwife, and the Nursing Association is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. No midwives are employed or subsidised by the District Council. There are also one or two midwives practising in the area, who attend a few cases.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Any necessary analyses are made by the Clinical Research Association, and bacteriological examinations are also carried out in the Association's Laboratory.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The following are the Adoptive Acts in force in the district:—

Infectious Diseases Prevention Acts, 1890.
Adopted 1896.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.
Adopted 1896.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts II., III., IV., V., VI., and Certain Sections of Part X.
Adopted 1908.

The Bye-Laws in force are:—

1. In respect of New Street and Buildings.
   Adopted 1903.
2. In respect to the Drainage of existing Buildings.
   Adopted 1903.
3. In respect of Nuisances.
   Adopted 1901.
4. In respect to Houses let in Lodgings.
   Adopted 1913.
5. In respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.
   Adopted 1904.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—This is derived from the Metropolitan Water Board's system, and is good both in quality and quantity. Part of the district receives a constant supply, and

it is very desirable that this should be extended to the whole area. At the southern extremity of the district there is a small area in which the supply is obtained from the Leatherhead Water Company. This is good both in quantity and purity. There are one or two isolated houses where shallow wells provide a part of the water used for domestic purposes, but in each case there is an ample supply of pure water within easy reach.

Rivers and Streams.—The District Council is not the Authority controlling the two main watercourses, namely, the Thames and Mole, which are under the management of their respective Conservancy Boards. Between the parishes of Thames and Long Ditton there is a small stream known as the Rythe, the bed of which is uneven in its lowest part, where water collects at times in the holes and in hot weather gives off effluvia. By cleaning the bed of the stream out and preventing vegetable refuse collecting there a nuisance has been prevented.

The Council's system of sewers collects the sewerage and takes it to the Sewage Farm at Lower Green, where it is treated with alumina-ferric, precipitated, and run on to the farm land, the effluent being discharged into the River Mole. A few houses at the southern part of Claygate have had to be drained into cesspools. These are of good class, and every care is taken to ensure that no nuisance arises from this system. In all there are about 70 houses where cesspool drainage is in use, and about 30 houses where earth closets are provided.

In addition tents and caravans have at the present time 17 pail closets in use. In all these cases observation is constantly kept up to prevent any nuisance, and it is very rarely that any complaint is received.

Scavenging.—The weekly collection of household refuse is made by the Council's staff, and this arrangement proves satisfactory on the whole, as complaints of

nuisance arising from accumulations of refuse are infrequent. The amount that has to be dealt with naturally varies somewhat, but averages about 68 tons a week. The material is dealt with in a destructor at the Council's sewage farm. In the early part of the year this consisted of two cells, and about three-fifths of the refuse was burnt in it, the remainder being burnt in the open.

There are now five cells in the destructor, and the whole of the refuse is consumed in it. Owing to the exposed position of the farm, it has been found necessary to erect a wire fence to prevent paper and other light material from being blown on to the adjacent land.

The cleansing of earth closets and cesspools is carried out by the occupiers of the houses and is well done by them.

There are no privies and only three ashpits in the district; practically every house has a movable sanitary dustbin.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—The usual house to house inspection has been carried out during the year, and I submit the required classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered, and the action and result of action taken in regard to them.

Statement prepared by the Sanitary Inspector in accordance with Section 19 (XII.) of the Sanitary Officers' Orders, 1922, showing:—

(*a*) The number and nature of inspections made during the year.

(*b*) The number of notices served during the year distinguishing statutory from informal notices.

(*c*) The result of the services of such notices.

The following is a list of the statements set forth in the order indicated:—

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS.

Number of dwellings inspected under the Public Health Acts	879
Re-inspections to works in progress and for other reasons	725
Dwellings inspected under the Housing Act	2
Re-inspections under Housing Act	19
Houses let in Lodgings	21
Temporary Dwellings, &c.	55
Inspections and re-visits under the Factory and Workshops Act	144
Inspections at Slaughterhouses, &c. ...	151
Meat and other Foods, including Butchers, Grocers, Fishmongers, &c.	374
Inspections of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk-shops	147
Miscellaneous, including Schools, Public Conveniences, &c.	78
Total ...	2,595

DETAILS OF NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory Notices for authority to examine and test drains	7
Statutory Notices *re* general repairs, decoration, &c.	6
Statutory Notices *re* dust bins	4
Statutory Notices *re* intention to inspect under the Housing, &c., Acts	1
Statutory Notices *re* general repairs, &c., under Housing Act	2
Statutory Notices re paving of yards ...	3
Informal written Notices	102
Verbal Intimations	61

As a result of the above Inspections and Notices 244 houses and premises have benefited by such works as the cleaning and re-decorating of rooms, general house

repairs, attention to drainage matters, repairs and renewals of sanitary appliances, &c.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORKS, ETC., CARRIED OUT IN CONNECTION WITH INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Number of houses cleansed and re-decorated throughout	22
Number of houses in which one or more rooms have been cleansed and re-decorated as required	132
Defective roofs repaired, &c., number of houses	27
Defective eaves gutters repaired, &c., number of houses	19
Windows enlarged, repaired, made to open, &c. Number of houses	10
New floors provided to living rooms and scullaries. Number of houses	3
General house repairs (including repairs to walls, ceilings, woodwork, &c.). Number of houses	76
Soil drains examined and tested	21
Soil drains repaired, extended and otherwise improved	28
Surface drains unblocked or new provided ...	5
New W.C. pans provided	6
Water closets cleansed and repaired ...	9
W.C. flushing tanks renewed or repaired ...	14
New sinks, repairs, &c.	13
Rain water down pipes trapped, repaired, &c.	2
New dust bins provided	43
Block drains cleared	34
Yards paved	17
Yard paving repaired, &c.	14
Damp proof courses provided	5
Damp walls remedied	10
Walls underpinned	3
Accumulations of refuse, &c., removed ...	3
Animal nuisance abated	4

Number of houses disinfected	58
Complaints received and investigated ...	55
Water Company's Notices received and attended to (*re* supply withdrawn from houses)	21
Miscellaneous	3

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

The Bye-Laws with regard to Houses let in Lodgings are the only ones in force under this heading. The register of these houses is kept up to date, and it was not necessary to take any action with regard to any of them. There are no offensive trades, common lodging houses or underground dwellings in the district. There is no need for regulations in respect of underground sleeping rooms as provided for in Section 18 (1) of the Housing Act, 1925.

Schools.—These have been inspected from time to time and found to be in good sanitary condition. Each of the four wards has a set of school buildings. Those in Thames Ditton and Claygate and the Infants' School in Long Ditton are the most recently built. The schools in Esher and Long Ditton other than the Infants' Department are much older, but all are well kept, ventilated, and properly warmed. Each building is supplied with water from the Water Board, and all sanitary fittings are kept in good order. The drainage of each is connected with the general drainage system. It was not necessary to take any other action beyond the exclusion of scholars from infected houses for dealing with the health of the children.

Housing.—The houses occupied by the working classes are usually of four or five rooms, and in most cases accommodate one family. There are, however, several containing two families. I find that at the last census there were 1,508 houses of from one to five rooms

which were occupied by 1,773 families, so that at that time there must have been 265 dwellings of from 1 to 5 rooms which were occupied by more than one family. The houses which have been erected since the operation of the building bye-laws are generally in good repair and are of modern construction. But the older ones without damp courses need constant attention, and many of them are damp and would benefit by reconstruction.

There is an undoubted shortage of houses. In the early part of the year the Council completed 48 houses, and there were about 400 applicants for these. It is very rare to see a cottage unoccupied except for the short time between the going of the old tenant and the entry of the new.

The Council are building houses at the present time, and it is probable that the number of applicants for these will again exceed the number of houses to be alloted.

No important changes in the population have taken place during the period under review, but it is possible that when the new main roads are completed there may be changes the nature of which it is not easy to foresee.

Overcrowding.—During the last five years only one case of overcrowding such as to be a nuisance had to be dealt with by a statutory notice, but there are several houses which are crowded and have to be kept under observation. The following table gives the percentage of families living in various sized dwellings:—

	1921	1911
Percentage of families living in 1 room	2·5	1·7
,, ,, 2 rooms	6·8	3·0
,, ,, 3 ,,	7·1	5·3
,, ,, 4 ,,	18·8	20·9
,, ,, 5 ,,	24·0	25·5
,, ,, 6-7 ,,	21·0	20·9
,, ,, 8-9 ,,	12·2	12·5
,, ,, 10 and more	7·6	10·2

This shows a considerable increase in the number of families living in one, two, and three-roomed dwellings, and any overcrowding there is is due to the shortage of houses of this size. This shortage has been in evidence in this district for the last twenty-five years at least, and is partly due to the fact that it is no one's duty to see that for each good class house that is built at least one if not two cottages should be provided as well. At almost every large house a gardener or chauffeur, perhaps both, are employed, and both these men will want a house each, but it does not seem to have occurred to the builder of the good house that outdoor men employees should be provided with a cottage within easy reach of their work.

The general standard of houses is on the whole good, but there are exceptions, of course. These are for the most part old cottages which have either been badly constructed or have fallen into disrepair.

The chief defects found in unfit houses are:—

1. Dampness, either due to the absence of a proper damp-proof course, or to defects in the roofs of cottages.
2. Defective eaves guttering and down pipes.
3. Windows either too small or not made to open.
4. Unpaved or damaged paving of yards.

Most of these conditions are due to want of proper supervision of their property by owners. In some cases a small defect is left without attention, and in the end becomes so serious as to lead to a large expense. The action taken with regard to unfit houses is given in detail in the statistics set out below.

No great difficulty has been found in getting defects remedied under the Public Health Acts, and as yet no action has been taken under Section 3 of the Housing Act of 1925. The shortage of small houses is so marked

that it is not possible to proceed with a closing order as there are no available houses for the occupants to go to, and works of renovation have to be completed while the tenants are in occupation of the houses. This is done under conditions of great discomfort, and materially adds to the cost.

No conditions regarding water supply, closet accommodation or refuse disposal have been found to affect housing during the past year.

No complaints have been received or representations been made in regard to unhealthy areas.

In some parts of the district there are a number of vans used as dwellings, and considerable difficulty has been found in dealing with these owing to the want of suitable arrangements for the disposal of refuse, the lack of drainage, and a supply of water. The use of vans such as these for human habitation should not be encouraged, owing to the fact that they are liable to overcrowding, and there are great difficulties in providing for personal cleanliness and ventilation, and they are seldom weatherproof.

In one instance representations have been made to the owner, with the result that the number of dwellings has been reduced from 17 to 2 and improved means for dealing with all kinds of refuse have been adopted. These premises are being kept under constant supervision. If permanent camping grounds of this nature are to continue in the District, the Council will probably have to consider the adoption of bye-laws for the control of tents, vans, sheds and similar structures used for human habitation.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(*a*) Total (including numbers given separately under (*b*)) 133

(*b*) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—

(1) By the Local Authority	48
(2) By other bodies or persons ...	Nil.

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	881
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subheading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. (The number here given is of houses where any insanitary conditions were found)	303

2. Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	238

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) By Owners ... ... Nil.

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close ... ... Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(*a*) By Owners 6

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ... Nil.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ... Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil.

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk.—The supply of milk, both that produced in the area and that imported, is very good both as regards quality and quantity, and the arrangements for distribution are satisfactory. Milk sellers generally are very careful in the management of their business to ensure that the milk is guarded from contamination, and are anxious to do all they can to maintain a good and wholesome supply.

The veterinary inspection of all milch cows has been carried out, and quarterly reports as to their condition have been received. No animals have been reported to be suffering from tuberculosis.

Four licences have been granted for the sale of Grade A. milk, but the demand for this class of milk does not seem to be great.

I do not know that there have been any examinations to ascertain the bacteriological state of graded or other milk.

Meat.—The greater part of the meat is brought into the district from Metropolitan or other markets, where it is inspected before distribution; 202 carcases have been inspected at the time of slaughter within the district, and in only five was any disease found.

Any meat that has been found unfit for use is destroyed in the Council's destructor.

The various stalls, shops, stores and vehicles have been inspected and have been found to be well kept.

Every butcher's shop is provided with glazed windows and no meat is permitted to be hung outside the shop.

The proprietors of the shops are always ready to adopt any suggestions to mitigate the risk of contamination of meat by dust or flies.

There are no public slaughterhouses in the area.

The following is a statement of the number of private slaughterhouses in the district:—

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Registered	0	8	8
Licensed	0	0	0
Total	0	8	8

Other Foods.—These have been inspected constantly but none was discovered which were unfit for use. All the shops and stores were found in clean and sanitary condition.

There are nine bakehouses, and all are well kept, and the various requirements as to whitewashing and cleaning have been complied with.

No cases of food poisoning have been reported.

The Council is not the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, but I am able to give a list of the articles which have been submitted to analysis.

Articles.	Analysed.	Adulterated.	Prosecutions.
Milk	24	0	0
Cream (preserved) ...	2	0	0
Other articles ...	2	0	0
Total	28	0	0

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

The following table shows the notifications which have been received since 1909:—

Infectious diseases notified since January 1st, 1921:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	62	27	9	24	26
Diphtheria ...	26	10	2	7	10
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid Fever)	1	—	—	3	1
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	12	8	10	10
Erysipelas	4	1	1	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	—	1	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	1	1	2	—
Polio-encephalitis ...	—	—	1	2	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	2	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	12	15	19	25
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	2	3	3	3	4

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is always ready for use on application, and I think a more extended use of it is very desirable. It is well recognised that there is no risk in giving a dose to a doubtful case, and should it prove afterwards to be diphtheria, there is a great gain, as it is the early administration of antitoxin which proves of greatest value.

There can be little doubt that infection in the cases of encephalitis lethargica was contracted outside the area.

No return cases of scarlet fever have come to my knowledge.

It is probable that only a few cases of pneumonia are notified. In many cases the diagnosis is only made after the illness has lasted some days, and the necessity for notification is overlooked. Many cases, patients who are living under poor conditions from a nursing point of view, are removed into hospital or nursing homes. Examinations for determining the diagnosis of cases of diphtheria, tuberculosis and enteric fever are made by the Clinical Research Association, and the following tables show the number of such examinations which have been made during the last five years and the results obtained.

No. of specimens examined for—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Diphtheria	76	27	19	33	38
Tuberculosis ...	14	14	31	25	38
Enteric Fever ...	2	1	—	3	1

Positive results were obtained in the following numbers:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Diphtheria	19	5	—	4	4
Tuberculosis	3	3	4	6	5
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	1	1

No special arrangements or efforts are systematically made for dealing with "contacts," but on occasions when it seems to be necessary I have made swabbings of the throats of everyone in a house, and have occasionally detected a carrier.

The following table gives the number of cases that have been notified and of those that have been removed to hospital during the last five years:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Diphtheria cases notified	26	10	2	7	10
Removed to hospital ...	25	9	2	7	10
Scarlet Fever cases notified	61	27	9	24	26
Removed to hospital ...	54	20	9	22	24
Enteric Fever cases notified	1	0	0	3	1
Removed to hospital ...	0	0	0	2	0

The Isolation Hospital is at Tolworth in the Urban District of Surbiton, and is about three miles from the centre of the district. There is accommodation for diphtheria, scarlet fever and enteric fever cases. Other infectious diseases, such as Erysipelas and Infantile Paralysis, have been treated there, but not during the period under review.

No use has hitherto been made of the Schick test for diphtheria or of the Dick test for Scarlet Fever or of the recently developed methods of immunization against these diseases.

No vaccinations have been done by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Prevention of Small Pox) Regulations, 1917.

The vaccination of infants as shown in returns from the Vacciation Officer is being carried out more efficiently than was the case a few years ago.

The figures for last year are:—

No. of births	171
No. vaccinated	134
No. exempted	20
Died unvaccinated	6
Postponed by medical certificate	1
Gone away	1
Not yet accounted for	6
Sent to V.O. of other districts	3
	171

The percentage of exemptions for the last five years is—

For 1921	25·4.
1922	28·8.
1923	12·28.
1924	15·6.
1925	11·7.

The number of cases of small-pox notified in England and Wales during the first week in March shows the gradual increase that this disease is making in the country.

In 1922	...	...	...	8	cases of small-pox.
1923	...	...	...	53	,, ,,
1924	...	...	...	65	,, ,,
1925	...	...	...	122	,, ,,
1926	...	...	...	199	,, ,,

It is satisfactory to note that the exemptions during this period have been lessened considerably.

Cases of illness notified by teachers of schools:—

Chicken-pox	...	...	...	46 cases.
German Measles	...	...	...	16 ,,
Measles	...	...	...	2 ,,
Mumps	...	...	...	7 ,,
Scabies	...	...	...	5 ,,
Impetigo	...	...	...	1 ,,
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1 ,,

The chief means of obtaining information as to outbreaks of acute non-notifiable diseases is from the teachers of the schools, and the following is a list of intimations received during the last five years:—

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Chicken-pox ...	18	51	44	1	46
Measles	2	33	46	28	2
Whooping Cough ...	—	28	46	9	1
Impetigo	—	1	4	4	1
Mumps	85	32	—	2	7
Ringworm ...	2	—	—	—	—
German Measles ...	—	—	—	—	16

The following table shows the number of times it was necessary to close schools during this period:—

	1921.	1922.	1923	1924.	1925.
Thames Ditton—					
Boys	—	—	—	—	—
Girls	—	—	—	—	—
Infants ...	—	2, 1	—	4	—
Long Ditton—					
Boys	—	—	—	—	—
Girls	—	—	—	—	—
Infants ...	5	—	—	2	—
Esher—					
Boys	—	—	1	1	—
Girls	—	—	—	1	—
Infants	3	1, 2	1, 2	1, 4	—
Claygate—					
Boys	—	—	—	1	—
Girls	—	—	—	1	—
Infants ...	—	3	—	1	—

In this table 1 refers to Measles, 2 to Whooping Cough, 3 to Chicken-pox, 4 to Influenza, and 5 to Scarlet Fever.

The deaths from Influenza were:—

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	
2	7	2	3	1	
or a rate of 0·18	0·48	0·14	0·21	0·06	per 1,000 living

The deaths from Cancer were:—

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	
21	15	23	17	12	
or a rate of 1·4	1·04	1·6	1·11	0·83	per 1,000 living

In the following tables I have analysed the deaths from Cancer for the last five years:—

	Total deaths all causes	Cancer	Males	Females	Rate per 1,000
1921 ...	112	21	6	15	1·4
1922 ...	148	15	6	9	1·04
1923 ...	118	23	7	16	1·6
1924 ...	145	17	5	12	1·11
1925 ...	138	12	8	4	0·83
Totals	661	88	32	56	1·19 (average)

Area of disease.	Under 40		40 to 55		55 to 65		65 to 75		75 to 85		Over 85		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Digestive organs ...	1	—	7	5	10	7	5	11	2	5	—	2	55
Reproductive organs	—	—	—	5	—	4	—	3	—	3	—	—	15
Urinary organs ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Brain ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bones ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Respiratory organs ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	7
Skin ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Abdomen ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
Totals ...	1	1	8	11	12	15	7	18	4	8	—	3	88

Male Occupations.

4 Labourers.
3 Independent means.
3 Gardeners.
2 Publicans.
2 Contractors.
2 Carters.

Females.

29 Married.
19 Widowed.
7 Single.

One each of the following:—

Chimney sweep.
Company director.
Insurance official.
Builder.
Accountant.
Station master.
Schoolmaster.
Ironmonger.
Messenger.
Motor-car body builder.
Church verger.
Farmer.
Barrister.
Painter.
Commercial traveller.

The average age at death for males and females together is found to be 62·71 years. The average age for males was 60·0 and for females 64·08.

These figures and details are too few to make any generalisations beyond noting the fact that the largest incidence of cancer was on the organs of digestion, and that cancer appears to attack women later in life than men, or at least that was the case during the past five years.

There are no means for the disinfestation of verminous persons and their belongings. It has been usual in such cases to get the persons to cleanse themselves, and to destroy clothing which is infested with vermin.

All premises which are infected by cases of infectious disease are treated with formaline spray after sealing all outlets, and are left closed for twelve hours at least. In some cases it has been necessary to relax this rule and open rooms earlier, owing to the fact that the only available sleeping accommodation has been disinfected.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease that has been notified during the past year:—

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified During the Year 1925.

Certifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality (*e.g.* Parish or Ward) of the District.				Deaths.		Total Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and Upwards.	Thames Ditton	Long Ditton	Esher	Claygate	M.	F.	
Pneumonia	10			1		4	2	3	7	2	1		6	7	
Scarlet Fever ...	26		4	17	2	3			14	5	3	4			24
Diphtheria	10		1	7	1	1			1	9					10
Para Typhoid B ...	1				1				1						
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	25			2	3	13	7		10	6	6	3	5	7	
Tuberculosis, Other	4		2		1		1		1	2		1		2	
Totals	76		7	27	8	21	10	3	34	24	10	8			34

Pulmonary ... ... Male, 12 Non-Pulmonary ... ... Male, Nil

,, ... Female, 13 ,, ... Female, 4

Table showing the number of notifications received each month:—

	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Para Typhoid B.	Pneumonia, Influenza Pneumonia.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Tuberculosis, Other.	
January	1	1	—	1	1	—	4
February	2	1	—	1	—	—	4
March	—	3	—	2	3	—	8
April	1	—	—	2	6	2	11
May	2	2	—	—	2	—	6
June	3	2	—	1	1	1	8
July	1	1	—	—	2	—	4
August	—	2	—	—	3	1	6
September	—	1	—	—	4	—	5
October	—	4	1	—	2	—	7
November	—	7	—	—	1	—	8
December...	—	2	—	3	—	—	5
Totals...	10	26	1	10	25	4	76

Table showing particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from that disease during 1925:—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
25	5	2	—	—	2	1	—	—
35	1	5	—	—	1	3	—	—
45	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
55	3	1	—	1	2	—	—	1
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	12	13	—	4	5	7	—	2

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and none has been taken under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

No cases of puerperal fever or of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified, and there were no severe outbreaks of whooping cough, epidemic diarrhœa or measles.

The following are details of work done under the Factory and Workshop Acts during the year:—

Number and description of premises on the Register:—

Factories	17
Factory Bakehouses	4
Factory Laundries	2
Retail Bakehouses	5
Motor Garages and Cycle Workshops ...	11
Workshops occupied by Dressmakers, Tailors and Bootmakers	39
Miscellaneous workplaces other than workshops	35
Workshop and Cottage Laundries ...	19
Total on Register ...	132

Inspections made:—

Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	32
Workshops (including Workshops Laundries)	90
Workplaces (miscellaneous)	22
Total of Inspections ...	144

Notices, etc.:—

Notices of occupation by H.M. Inspector ...	11
Notices *re* Outworkers	1
Statutory Notices	Nil
Informal Written Notices	7
Verbal Intimations	13

Result of Notices and Intimations:—

Workshops cleansed, limewashed, etc. ...	11
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	9

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Notices under the Public Health Acts:—

	Found.	Remedied.	Ref. to H.M. Inspector.	No. of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness ...	11	11	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	9	9	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation:				
(Insufficient) ...	—	—	—	—
(Unsuitable or defective)	—	—	—	—
(Not separate for Sexes)	—	—	—	—

I have great pleasure in expressing my appreciation of the constant courtesy of the Chairman and Members of the Council and of the Members of the Public Health Committee, and tender my thanks to my colleagues of the Council's staff for their kind help and advice on many occasions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. Senior, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
Esher,
January, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Esher and the Dittons.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit herewith my twenty-second Annual Report giving details of the various inspections, works and improvements dealt with by the Sanitary Department during the year ending 31st December, 1925.

All necessary attention has been given to the carrying out of duties as set forth in the General Orders and Regulations of the Minstry of Health, which require inspection of the District to be made both systematically and at intervals as occasion requires, in order that the Inspector may keep himself informed of the sanitary circumstances of the district, and in respect of the nuisances therein that require abatement.

A total of 2,595 inspections and re-visits have during the year been made in connection with the Public Health Acts, Inspection of Meat and other Foods, the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders, the Factory and Workshops Act, and various bye-laws and orders in force.

The result has been the accomplishment of many useful and in some cases permanent improvements. These have for the most part been carried out by respective owners in compliance with ordinary preliminary notices or verbal intimations, the number of these amounting to 163.

It was also necessary for the Council to issue 23 Statutory Notices, particulars of which are given elsewhere in the Report.

Full details are given in the general statement prepared in accordance with Section 19 (XII.) of the Sanitary Officers' Orders, 1922.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

There are eight slaughterhouses, and all are registered.

The Butchers' Shops are 14 in number, eight of which have a slaughterhouse attached, the remaining six being retail shops only.

All the shops are provided with glass windows, most of which can be opened or kept closed according to circumstances.

No meat has been permitted to be hung up or exposed outside the shops, and all reasonable precautions have been taken to prevent contamination of meat by dust, flies or other impurities.

During the year five of the slaughterhouses have been in use and three in disuse.

The number of bovine animals slaughtered represents only a small proportion of the meat used, the additional supplies required being for the most part obtained from the Metropolitan and other Meat Markets.

General killing has been carried out during the year at one slaughterhouse only. At the remainder the animals dealt with have been chiefly pigs, a few sheep and an occasional calf.

The following animals have been examined either at the time of slaughter or shortly after:—

Oxen or Cows	12
Calves	2
Sheep and Lambs	75
Pigs	113

The following food having been found diseased or unsound and unfit for the food of man was surrendered and destroyed:—

Parts of hind quarter of beef (putrefaction), 142 lbs.
Two whole pigs' carcases (tuberculosis), 137 lbs.
Three ox livers (cirrhosis).
One pig's liver and spleen (cirrhosis).
One pig's lungs (congestion).

The number of visits to the slaughterhouses amounted to 151.

INSPECTION OF FOOD SHOPS, STORES, Etc.

The various Shops and Stores in the District where food is prepared and exposed for sale, viz.:—Butchers, Grocers, Fishmongers, Greengrocers, Bakers, Milksellers and others have been inspected at intervals during the year, and no part or parcel of the foods has been found unsound or unfit for human food.

The various premises have whenever inspected been found in a clean and wholesome condition.

The number of visits to the various shops, stores, &c., amounted to 374.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the close of the year the Register of Cowkeepers and Dairymen required to be kept under the above orders

cleansing, whitewashing and re-papering of rooms, repairs to drainage and sanitary fittings, also overhauling and repairs to roofs, eaves gutters, &c.

Altogether 244 houses were benefited by one or more of the works indicated.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, Etc.

The completion and letting in the early part of the year of 48 houses erected by the Council reduced the number of overcrowded houses considerably, as 48 families instead of remaining in lodgings became tenants of the Council.

In allotting the houses much time and care was given by a Committee composed of members of the respective Wards, in considering and sorting out the chosen tenants from among some 400 applicants.

The letting of these Council houses, together with the occasional vacating of a privately owned cottage or rooms during the year by occupiers who have for various reasons made a change of residence, has caused a certain amount of re-arrangement, tending to appreciably diminish overcrowding in the District. As a result there is a decided improvement in the housing conditions as compared with a year ago.

At the same time there are many families, a considerable number of which have been unsuccessful applicants for Council houses, who still have to live in one or two rooms, and are most desirous of securing more healthy accommodation and surroundings.

HOUSEHOLD REFUSE AND DUST BINS.

The collection of ashes and household refuse is under the control of the Surveyor's Department, and is carried

out weekly in a manner which appears to give general satisfaction to occupiers, as evinced by the fact that complaints have been practically non-existent.

Portable galvanised ash bins are in general use throughout the District, and during the year 43 new receptacles have been provided either after the service of preliminary or statutory notices.

In addition a large number have been re-placed by owners or occupiers without notices being served.

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints received at these Offices and attended to during the year amounted to 55, relative to the following matters:—

Defective drainage	13
Damp conditions	6
Bad smells	6
Want of cleanliness (rooms, &c.) ...	8
Verminous conditions	6
Nuisance caused by rats	2
Miscellaneous	14
Total	55

Each complaint with date, particulars and subsequent action taken, has been duly recorded in the register kept for the purpose.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

All these schools have been visited from time to time for the purpose of ordinary inspection and to ensure them being kept at all times in the best sanitary condition possible.

It is noteworthy that the sanitary arrangements in all cases received regular and proper attention at the hands of those responsible.

Limewashing of the sanitary compartments was carried out generally during the summer vacation.

The sanitary conveniences at the Railway Stations and also those attached to licensed premises have been inspected from time to time and their condition noted.

These places, generally speaking, have been well looked after and kept as clean as possible.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES AFTER INFECTIOUS ILLNESS.

During the year disinfection was carried out after 58 cases of infectious disease following the removal of patients to Isolation Hospital, Sanatorium, or after occurrence of death.

Various premises were disinfected after the following:

Scarlet Fever	23
Diphtheria	10
Tuberculosis	16
Cancer	1
Miscellaneous	8
Total	58

PUBLIC MORTUARY, THAMES DITTON.

This building has been at all times maintained in as efficient a condition as possible for the purpose intended.

During the year five bodies have been received into the Mortuary for the purpose of Post Mortem Examination and Inquest.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD (NOTICES).

Twenty-one notifications were received from the Water Board relating to water supplies having been cut off from houses and other premises for reasons stated in the notices.

The usual inspections were made, and where necessary steps were taken to prevent insanitation through lack of a proper water supply.

In conclusion, I desire to express my appreciation of the support given me by the Council and Public Health Committee in my efforts to improve the sanitary condition of the District.

My thanks are also due to the Medical Officer and fellow Officers for their courtesy and valuable assistance throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE COMPLIN OVER,

Ass.R.San.Inst., Cert. M.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

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